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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MANAMA 000336

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/29/2018
TAGS: <u>PGOV PINR KISL BA</u>
SUBJECT: SOME POTENTIAL NEW LEADERS IN BAHRAIN'S CHIEF
SHI'A OPPOSITION PARTY

REF: MANAMA 313 MANAMA 00000336 001.2 OF 002 Classified By: DCM Christopher Henzel for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1.(U) The Al-Wifaq National Islamic Society will conduct internal leadership elections on May 31 (reftel). Wifaq is the leading political party 2.(SBU) Khalil Ebrahim Al-Marzook, at 41 one of Wifaq's youngest and most active MPs, represents the Capital Governorate's 2nd district (Manama 3.(SBU) Wifaq selected Al-Marzook to lead its successful campaign against the use of electronic voting in the 2006 parliamentary election becau 4.(SBU) Abduljalil Khalil represents the Capital Governorate's 4th district, which includes the villages of Sanabis and Karzakan, where many an 6.(SBU) Abduljalil Khalil's wife, Afaf Al-Jamri, a women's activist and writer, is sister to both the editor-in-chief of Al-Wasat newspaper Man 6.(SBU) Jawad Fairooz represents the 8th district of the Northern Governorate. As a founding member of Al-Wifaq, and one of its most active mem 7.(SBU) Jawad's older brother, Jalal, also serves as an MP, however Jawad's influence is much greater than that of Jalal. Both have a great dea 8.(C) All four of these potential leaders speak often and frankly with emboffs. Khalil Marzook and Abduljail Khalil are the most likely candida